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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/800,699 | 03/16/2004 | Jae-Wook Jung | P-0666 | 1774 |

34610 7590 10/13/2006

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EXAMINER

ING, MATTHEW W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/800,699 | Applicant(s) JUNG, JAE-WOOK | |
| | Examiner Matthew W. Ing | Art Unit 3637 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 and 27 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Regarding claim 1, the term “the foaming agent” in line 10 lacks antecedent basis in the claim.
5. Regarding claim 10, the term “the foaming agent” in line 9 lacks antecedent basis in the claim.
6. Claims 2-9 and 11 are considered indefinite since they depend from indefinite base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
8. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by the applicant in Figure 2 of his application, in view of Tillman (5,031,266).

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9. The prior art of Figure 2 teaches a refrigerator door including a front panel (210) formed at a front surface of a refrigerator door and having both end portions formed in a bent rectangular form (212); a side panel coupled to an upper end or a lower end of the front panel (230); and a rear panel (220) coupled to an inner side of the front panel. The side panel taught in the prior art of Figure 2 possesses a cover part (231) having a side shape of a refrigerator door; an insertion rib formed extended with a certain thickness and height at one marginal portion of the cover part, and including a front side rib portion (233) formed at an edge of the front side and both sides of the cover part (231) and inserted into the end portion of the front panel (210), a rear side rib portion (234) formed at an edge of a rear side of the cover part, an overlap rib portion (235) formed at both ends of the rear edge of the cover part, having a certain length, and distanced from the rear rib portion (234), and an outer side rib portion (236) formed at both ends of the cover part and overlapping with the both sides of the front side rib portion and the overlap rib portion; and a hinge insertion part (232) formed at the other side of the cover part, formed at both end portions of the cover part in a longitudinal direction, and coupled to a hinge coupled to a refrigerator body; wherein an end surface of the front panel (210) contacts an upper surface of the cover part (230). See Figure 2. The examiner points out that the structure of the prior art of Figure 2 is obviously capable of preventing a leakage of the foaming agent filled in the refrigerator door (see page 3, lines 2-5) via the contact between the front panel (210) and the upper surface of the cover part (230).

10. The prior art of Figure 2 fails to teach a coupling unit that meets the particular limitations of the applicant's claims. However, the patent to Tillman teaches coupling units, formed at predetermined intervals (i.e., one on each side) upon an insertion rib

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(Figure 4, Item 64) of the member to be coupled (56), for the purposes of attaching to another member (76) wherein rectangular-shaped holes (74) are formed at both sides of the member in which the coupling unit is to engage (76) and wherein the coupling unit is fixedly engaged in said holes. The coupling unit taught by Tillman comprises a slit having a cantilever form (Figure 6, Item 72) with a certain length formed at one side of the insertion rib (64); an elastic portion formed inside the slit, of which one side fixed, having a cantilever form with a certain length and the same longitudinal direction as that of the member (76) to which it is being coupled; and an engaging portion (70) formed extendedly protruded at one side of the elastic portion, with a triangular form in its cross-section (see Figure 5), and formed protruded at an outer side of the insertion rib (64).

11. The examiner points out that the elastic portion of Tillman's coupling unit can be divided into two parts along a line that is perpendicular to the direction in which the elastic portion is cantilevered, and that bisects the engaging portion (70) of said elastic portion; the first part (i.e., the "inner side") being that part of the elastic portion that connects to the insertion rib (64), and the second part (i.e., "end side") being that part of the elastic portion that is hanging free. By this interpretation, Tillman teaches a coupling unit with an elastic portion wherein the width of an end side of the elastic portion is thicker than an inner side thereof. The examiner also points out that the space between the coupling units on each side of the insertion rib in the structure of Tillman can be considered a "predetermined interval"; and that both rearranging the parts of an invention, and mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device, have been held to involve only routine skill in the art.

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12. Since the coupling structures of Figure 2 and of Tillman are conventional, alternative structures used for the same intended purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the coupling units taught by Tillman on each side of the insertion rib in the prior art of Figure 2 in order to provide a secure but non-permanent connection between side panel and refrigerator door, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

Response to Arguments

13. Objections to the drawings are rendered moot by applicant's amendments to the drawings and specification. As such, these objections are withdrawn.

14. The remainder of the applicant's arguments have been addressed in the art rejections.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lin (6,354,680) and Lee (6,585,210) teach the use of coupling units of the type claimed by the applicant.

16. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

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advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MWI 

4 October 2006

LANNA MAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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